Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Indicator 15.a.1: (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Institutional information

Organization(s):

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

This is a twin indicator consisting of:

A) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, defined as gross disbursements of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) from all donors for biodiversity.

B) Revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments, defined as revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments, covering biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges, and positive subsidies. (New on-going work is underway to collect data on payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsets -- including the finance they mobilise for biodiversity).

Concepts:

A) The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines ODA as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA recipients and multilateral institutions which are:

1) Provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and

2) Each transaction of which:

a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and

b) is concessional in character.

(See http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm).

B) The Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC) collects data on Policy Instruments for the Environment (to the OECD PINE database), including biodiversity-relevant economic instruments. Currently more than 110 countries are contributing data. For 2020 data, see Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity -2020.

Rationale:

A) Total ODA flows to developing countries quantify the public effort that donors provide to developing countries for biodiversity.

B) Economic policy instruments can either generate revenue (e.g. biodiversity-relevant taxes) or mobilise finance directly for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (e.g. biodiversity-relevant fees and charges; positive subsidies; PES and offsets) which is finance mobilised at domestic level.

The data are collected in a consistent and comparable way across countries.

Comments and limitations:

A) OECD CRS data are available since 1973. However, the data coverage at an activity level is considered complete from 1995 for commitments and 2002 for disbursements. The Rio biodiversity marker was introduced in 2002.

B) The OECD PINE database tracks the biodiversity-relevant economic instruments that countries have put in place, and countries are encouraged to also provide information on the revenue and finance channelled via each of the instruments. The comprehensiveness of data provided currently varies across the biodiversity-relevant economic instruments. The data on revenue generated by biodiversity-relevant taxes is currently the most comprehensive. For the data on biodiversity-relevant fees and charges, for example, of the total number of these instruments currently reported to the PINE database, 42% also include data on the finance they generate.

Like all data provided by a diffuse set of respondents, the data is subject to missing values, human error, and differences in interpretation of the provided definitions. However, all possible efforts have been made to ensure that the data is complete, accurate, and comparable across countries.

Methodology

Computation method:

A) This indicator is calculated as the sum of all ODA flows from all donors to developing countries that have biodiversity as a principal or significant objective, thus marked with the Rio marker for biodiversity.

B) Countries are requested to report on when the policy instrument was introduced, what it applies to, the geographical coverage, the environmental domain, the industries concerned; the revenues, costs or rates; whether the revenue is earmarked; and exemptions.

Treatment of missing values:

- ***At country level:***

A) and B) No attempt is made to estimate missing values.

- ***At regional and global levels:***

A) and B) No attempt is made to estimate missing values.

Regional aggregates:

A) Data are reported at a country level.

B) Data are reported at national and sub-national level, depending on the scope of the policy instrument.

Sources of discrepancies:

A) DAC statistics are standardized on a calendar year basis for all donors and may differ from fiscal year data available in budget documents for some countries. Some countries provide more comprehensive information than others.

B) Some countries provide more comprehensive information than others.

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

A) The DAC statistical Reporting Directives govern the reporting of DAC statistics, and are reviewed and agreed by the DAC Working Party of Development Finance Statistics, see: https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)9/FINAL/en/pdf

B) The OECD provides instructions and a formatted questionnaire for countries to provide data.

Quality assurance:

A) The data collected by the OECD/DAC Secretariat are official data provided by national statistical reporters in each providing country/agency. The OECD/DAC Secretariat is responsible for checking, validating and publishing these data.

B) Data are provided by competent national authorities. The OECD Secretariat conducts regular checks to identify errors or missing data.

Data sources

Description:

A) The OECD/DAC has been collecting data on official and private resource flows from 1960 at an aggregate level and 1973 at an activity level through the CRS (CRS data are considered complete from 1995 for commitments at an activity level and 2002 for disbursements). The Rio marker for biodiversity was introduced in 2002. The data are provided by DAC donors, other bilateral providers of development cooperation and multilateral organizations.

B) Information for the OECD PINE database is collected via a network of 200 country experts, including in government agencies (Ministries of Finance and Environment, statistical institutes) as well as research institutes and international organisations. Data is collected systematically for 37

OECD members as well as the active accession countries. A growing number of non-member countries also provide information. Currently, more than 110 countries are contributing data. Registered experts are asked to update data at least once a year, typically in January or February, through a password-protected interface. The data collection method may result in some reporting bias, as OECD members and active accession countries are likely to report more data on a regular basis, and all figures should be interpreted in this context.

Collection process:

A) Via and annual questionnaire reported by national statistical reporters in aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, etc.

B) Via questionnaire and directly via the network of contacts.

Data availability

Description:

A) The Rio biodiversity marker was introduced in 2002 and data are available since then for most DAC members, with improvements in reporting over time. Not all other providers report their data at an activity level though.

Provisional data classification: Tier I

B) Currently more than 110 countries are contributing data to the PINE database. As of March 2020, the database contained more than 3 500 policy instruments for the environment, of which 3 100 were in force. The environmental domains covered by the database include biodiversity, climate, air pollution, among others.

Time series:

A) The data are available since 1996 on an annual basis, with time series since 1950.

B) The data series is annual and data is available from before 1980.

The PINE database exists since 1996, with the added feature of tagging biodiversity-relevant instruments introduced in 2017. The biodiversity-relevant information in the PINE database is being used to monitor progress towards Aichi Target 3 on positive incentives, under the Convention on Biological Diversity. For more information on this, see Aichi Target 3 under the website of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP).

Disaggregation:

A) This indicator can be disaggregated by donor, by recipient country (or region), by type of finance, by type of aid, by sub-sector, by policy marker (e.g. gender), etc.

B) Information is available by country at the individual policy instrument level.

Calendar

Data collection:

A) On an annual basis.

B) On an on-going basis.

Data release:

A) The data are published at the end of each year for year -1.

B) An updated and expanded brochure on “Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity” is planned to be released in mid-2020.

The 2020 version is available here: OECD (2020), Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity-2020.

Data providers

A) A statistical reporter is responsible for the collection of DAC statistics in each providing country/agency. This reporter is usually located in the national aid agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Finance etc.

B) Information for the PINE database is collected via a network of 200 country experts, including in government agencies (Ministries of Finance and Environment, statistical institutes) as well as research institutes and international organisations. Data is collected systematically for 37 OECD members as well as the active accession countries. A growing number of non-member countries also provide information. Registered experts are asked to update data at least once a year, typically in January or February, through a password-protected interface. The data collection method may result in some reporting bias, as OECD members and active accession countries are likely to report more data on a regular basis, and all figures should be interpreted in this context.

The OECD Secretariat, in consultation with countries, validates the data before they are published online. The management of PINE is overseen by OECD Committees and Working Parties.

Data compilers

A) OECD, Development Cooperation Directorate. The OECD is the only International Organisation collecting this data.

B) OECD, Environment Directorate. The OECD is the only International Organisation collecting this data.

References

URL:

A) See all links here: http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.htm

References:

A) See all links here: http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.htm

B) OECD (2020), Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity - 2020.

The brochure also highlights on-going work to scale up the policy instruments to include Payments for Ecosystem Services, and Biodiversity Offsets, and the finance these two policy instruments mobilise. The PINE data is available at https://oe.cd/pine

Additional information extracted from the PINE database is reported in OECD (2019) *Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action*

Related indicators

15.b.1

A related indicator is that on public expenditure on biodiversity. Public expenditure on biodiversity is currently a Tier III indicator and is to be improved. For expenditure the methodology is agreed upon, i.e. SEEA Environmental Expenditure Accounts and National accounts COFOG.